



US20020004

1746  
I fw

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Van Hauwermeiren et al.  
Serial No.: 10/049,735 Group Art Unit: 1746  
Filing Date: February 15, 2002 Atty. Docket No.: US20020004  
Title: METHOD FOR CLEANING AND REFRESHING FABRICS

---

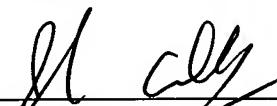
Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**TRANSMITTAL LETTER**

Sir:

The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or to credit any overpayment to account 23-1660.

Respectfully submitted,

By:   
John F. Colligan, Reg. 48,240  
Telephone (269) 923-6439

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Date: June 11, 2004

  
Barbara L. Katowich



## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicant(s): Van Hauwermeiren et al.  
 Application No.: 10/049,735  
 Filing Date: February 15, 2002  
 Atty. Docket No.: US20020004  
 Title: Method For Cleaning And Refreshing Fabrics  
 Examiner: Joseph L. Perrin, Ph.D.

---

Commissioner for Patents  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicants request that citation  
 and examination of the following patents be made during the course of examination of the  
 above-referenced application for United States Patent:

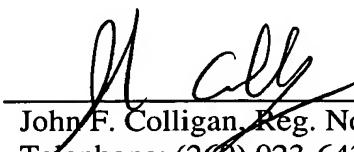
<u>REF.</u>	<u>PATENT NO.</u>	<u>PATENTEE</u>	<u>ISSUE DATE</u>
AA	4,761,305	Ochiai	August 2, 1988
AB	5,305,484	Fitzpatrick et al.	April 26, 1994
AC	5,649,372	Souza	July 22, 1997
AD	5,789,368	You et al.	August 4, 1998
AE	5,815,961	Estes et al.	October 6, 1998

<u>REF</u>	<u>PATENT NO.</u>	<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>ISSUE DATE</u>
AF	FR 2704008	France	October 21, 1994
AG	DE 2433909	Germany	February 5, 1976
AH	DE 2357646	Germany	May 22, 1975

References AA – AG were cited in the International Search Report. Copies of these references are already on file at the USPTO as indicated by form PCT/DC/EO/903 dated March 22, 2002. The references cited in the International Preliminary Examination Report are a subset of references AA-AG. Accordingly, only a copy of reference AH is attached for the Examiners convenience and review.

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.98, Applicants submit that reference AH, as presently understood, is relevant because it discloses a cloth drying and refreshing apparatus that is made of a flexible and thus foldable container, which can be arranged into two rigid end-portions. Reference AH was cited by the European Patent Office during the corresponding EPO national stage application process. Applicants do not have an English translation of reference AH.

Respectfully submitted,

  
 John F. Colligan, Reg. No. 48,240  
 Telephone: (269) 923-6439

Dated: June 11, 2004

WHIRLPOOL PATENTS COMPANY  
 500 Renaissance Drive – Ste. 102 MD750  
 St. Joseph, Michigan 49085



 <b>U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE</b> <b>PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE</b>		Docket No. US20020004	Serial No. 10/049,735
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</b> <b>BY APPLICANT</b> (use several sheets if necessary)		Applicant: Van Hauwermeiren et al.	
		Filing Date February 15, 2002	Group Art Unit 1746

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

## FOREIGN PATENTS

**OTHER PRIOR ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)**

Examiner		Date Considered
<p><b>*Examiner:</b> Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</p>		